



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Canada's
ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET
School
PROFESSIONAL DIVISION
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MEDIA RELEASE

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New Downtown Alliance: UWinnipeg Collegiate Announces Official Partnership with Royal Winnipeg Ballet School

WINNIPEG—The University of Winnipeg and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School (RWBS) today announced a new partnership between the two institutions, supporting students as they strike a graceful balance between their education and their art. The signing of today's agreement named The University of Winnipeg Collegiate as the high school of choice for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School.

"University of Winnipeg Collegiate faculty are renowned for the care with which they guide and nurture students," said Lloyd Axworthy, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Winnipeg who has had a long-standing relationship with the RWB. "The curriculum is rigorous, yet flexible—allowing young dancers to pursue their dreams in tandem with their educational goals. We are proud to be partners with another member of our downtown community, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, in this innovative initiative."

"I am delighted that the RWB School and The University of Winnipeg Collegiate have been able to develop an exciting new partnership. The Collegiate faculty have always understood the unique demands placed upon young artists in training and consistently motivated and challenged them in their work and experiences at the school," said Arlene Minkhorst, Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Director. "I know that parents and students from across Canada will recognize the opportunities this relationship will provide to the development of young artists."

New Brunswick native Jane Alison McKinney is pursuing her first year of studies at The Collegiate and at the RWB. She and her family chose The Collegiate because of its academic strengths, and also because of its reputation as a positive environment that lets students be themselves within an environment of mutual respect.

"I love The Collegiate," said McKinney. "My teachers are awesome. Things can get stressful sometimes when I'm practicing for something, or when my schedule gets hectic. But the teachers have a real understanding of what goes on at the RWB, and it really helps."

For RWB students like Ryan Booth, The Collegiate is a clear choice. “Being a dancer means a lot of hard work, but it’s really rewarding,” says Booth, whose dance studies and rehearsal require between four and five hours a day. He transferred to The Collegiate this year from another Winnipeg high school, and he’s confident he made the right choice.

“A public school just can’t be as flexible,” said Booth. “And it really helps that The Collegiate is in walking distance from the RWB—it’s just a seven minute walk.”

Up to 50 RWB School students may choose to join RWB students like Booth and McKinney already studying at the new high school of choice. “The diversity of The Collegiate’s student body—including dancers, artists, athletes, and scholars from Canada and around the world—is a great fit for students with a commitment to their passion and academic endeavours,” said Rob Bend, Dean of The Collegiate. “Collegiate graduates like RWB’s Tara Birtwhistle demonstrate The Collegiate’s unique ability to adapt to the needs of students while maintaining the highest academic standards.”

The announcement was made at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School with a signing ceremony and dance performance.

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School is one of the foremost dance training institutions in North America for students of dance. Under the leadership of Director Arlene Minkhorst, the School has a Recreational Division for students of all ages and a Professional Division, which provides a comprehensive training for students who wish to become professional dancers. Over the past three and a half decades, Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet School graduates have found careers worldwide, including Evelyn Hart, Collegiate graduate Tara Birtwhistle, Mark Godden, and Vanessa Lawson. Visit: www.rwbschool.com

Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg—its unique Collegiate high school division—is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Home to more than 8,900 full- and part-time students, UWinnipeg has been ranked by our graduates in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their “Entire Educational Experience” (Maclean’s Graduate Survey, November 2004). The Globe & Mail 2005 Report Card gives The University of Winnipeg an overall ‘A’ grade in the areas of teaching quality, class sizes, faculty-student interaction, and the availability of faculty outside classroom hours. Visit www.uwinnipeg.ca

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